



WELCOME

HOWARD COUNTY TOURISM NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rachelina Bonacci, Executive Director, Howard County Tourism, Inc.
410-313-1439 or Rachelina@VisitHowardCounty.com

50 Fun & FREE Things To Do & See In Howard County

Howard County Tourism's newest promotion is now available in the Howard Life guide and online for visitors, residents and local businesses

(Ellicott City, MD) January 2009 – Howard County Tourism welcomes 2009 with its newest promotion *50 Fun & Free Things To Do & See in Howard County*. The Free promotion is the featured cover story of Tourism's new *Howard Life* visitor guide and online guests can view the accompanying video created in partnership with Howard Community College and GTV at www.VisitHowardCounty.com. While everyone knows the amenities at our award winning parks and libraries are free, did you know about these frees; lessons at the Columbia Horse Center, admission to Bob's Vintage Motorcycle Museum, use of the labyrinth and peace gardens at Bon Secours Spiritual Center or guided nature hikes at the Howard County Conservancy? How about free wii at Howard County Recreation & Parks for the 55+ crowd or free artist receptions and exhibits at the Howard County Arts Council?

The best things in life are free, but one might think that's not true in Howard County, an affluent bedroom community of Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, MD., ranked as the third richest county in the nation (according to the 2006 U.S. Census) with an average household income of more than \$100,000, and a perennial favorite on Money magazine's "Top Ten Best Places to Live in America." While Howard County offers a healthy share of upscale amenities and experiences to fit the richest of lifestyles, it also has countless activities, events and attractions that are absolutely free. Even those not trying to pinch a penny will want to take part in these 50, sure-to-please, FREE ways to explore the wonders of Howard County.

TOURISM...Having FUN is Serious Business!

Howard County Tourism, Inc., a non-profit, membership-based organization is recognized and funded in part by Howard County Government and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development as the official Destination Marketing Organization for Howard County, Maryland. Howard County Tourism's mission is to increase, develop and promote tourism in Howard County by featuring the county's unique sites, services, products and people like creating the *50 Fun & Free Things To Do & See in Howard County*. For more information contact Howard County Tourism or check out our website www.VisitHowardCounty.com.

Below are the most recent and available statistics from the Maryland Office of Tourism Development for HOWARD COUNTY'S dynamic Tourism Industry:

- **Tourism generated \$528.72 million in expenditures from domestic visitors in 2006.**
- **The tourism industry generated 8,000 jobs in 2006**
- **Tourism generated \$16.1 million in County tax receipts in 2006.**